THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Mulund bomb blast in Mumbai

2831. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) how many were killed and injured in Mulund bomb blast in Mumbai on 13th March, 2003;

(b) whether Government have found any terrorist outfit responsible for that; and

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) 11 commuters were killed and 82 were injured in Mulund bomb blast in Mumbai.

(b) The Government has found linkages of Lashkar-e-Toiba, a terrorist organization based in Pakistan, with the prepetrators responsible for the Mulund bomb blast.

(c) On 29.3.2003, 3 terrorists of Lashkar-e-Toiba connected with the Mulund bomb blast were killed by the Mumbai Police in exchange of fire at Jogeshwari.

Criticism for invoking POTA

2832. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that number of criticism has been made about the appropriateness of invoking POTA in a number of cases particularly pertaining to Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand etc.;

(b) if so, the nature and substance of these criticism and other details arising thereof;

(c) the Government's assessment about the genuineness of these criticisms; and

(d) the action contemplated by Government for redressing them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) to (d) It has been alleged from time to time in certain quarters that the provisions of POTA are being applied in cases where they should not be invoked, thus giving rise to apprehensions regarding the Act being misused. The Central Government has constituted a Review Committee under section 60 of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002 to take a comprehensive view of the use of the said Act in various States and accordingly, give its findings and suggestions for removing shortcomings, if any, in the implementation of the said Act and to suggest measures to ensure that the provisions of the Act are invoked for combating terrorism only. The Review Committee has been notified in the Gazette of India Extraordinary on 4.4.2003.

Vacating Kangla Fort by Assam Rifles

2833. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the exact time by which Kangla Fort in Manipur will be vacated by the Assam Rifles;

(b) the way and manner in which the Fort would be utilised as a place of national importance; and

(c) the project, if any, with funds to be involved, for development of Kangla Fort?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) The movement of AR unit from Kangla Fort depends on availability of suitable infrastructure and accommodation etc. at the alternative site. It is not in public interest to reveal further details.

(b) and (c) It has been decided to develop a part of Kangla Fort as a National movement. A Conceptual Development Plan for the same has been prepared by the State Government in consultation with School of Planning & Architecture New Delhi. The 11th Finance Commission has awarded Rs. 5 crores for the Development of Kangla Fort.